

anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,078,914 to Redfern (hereinafter "Redfern") and claims 7-15 and 21-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Redfern.

With respect to independent claim 1, the Examiner states that forwarding a query to third party search engines, parsing the responses from the third party search engines in order to extract information regarding the documents matching the query, downloading the full text of the documents matching the query, locating query terms in the documents extracting text surrounding the query terms and displaying the text surrounding the query terms are shown in Redfern.

In Redfern, the natural language query entered by the user is parsed to find the relevant terms, then that information is sent out to the third party search engines. In claim 1, first the query is sent out to the third party search engines, and then the responses from these search engines are parsed to extract the information regarding the documents matching the query.

The method of claim 1 results in a greater volume of relevant information than the Redfern method. In Redfern, if during the parsing of the natural language query any important word or phrase is excised, that information will be forwarded to the search engines, and most of the information relayed back will be irrelevant and not what the user is looking for. In claim 1, however, the benefit is that the information is parsed after the information is relayed back from the search engines, so even if a little information is removed by error, there will still be a lot more relevant information available to the user.

In claim 1, the query terms in the documents are located once the documents are received from the search engines, and the text surrounding the query terms in the documents is extracted and displayed. In Redfern, the terms are only extracted to determine

relevancy when the natural language query is originally parsed. Redfern refers to extracting terms from the query, and extracting segments from result documents which relate to the extracted relevant terms, but not to extracting text surrounding query terms in the result documents. Columns 11 and 12 of Redfern describe in part the procedure used for extracting segments from result documents, but this procedure is different from the extraction of text surrounding the query terms of claim 1. The extracted segments in Redfern are paragraphs (col. 3, lines 14-15 and lines 44-45), and these segments may not even contain any of the original terms, e.g. the “relevant terms” extracted from the query may contain synonyms (col. 3, line 42). The method of claim 1, by extracting the terms surrounding the query terms once the information is received from the search engines, is more beneficial to the user by showing more relevant information than the method disclosed in Redfern.

With respect to claim 4, the Examiner states that identifying and filtering pages that no longer contain the query terms is shown in Redfern. Redfern does not identify and filter pages which no longer contain the query terms. In fact, Redfern may return documents that do not contain any of the query terms. In the section cited by the Examiner, col. 3, lines 21-36, “remove redundancies” refers to removing duplicate URL’s (if a search engine lists the same URL twice).

With respect to claim 5, the Examiner states that clustering the documents based on analysis of the full text of each document and identification of co-occurring phrases and words, and conjunctions are shown in Redfern. The section cited by the Examiner refers to the way that Redfern constructs queries for the search engines, and does not teach the method of claim 5.

With respect to claim 6, the Examiner states that storing the documents matching a query so a query can be repeated and only showing documents which are new or have been modified since the last query or a given time is shown in Redfern in col. 1, lines 33-45 and col. 10, lines 39-45. In Redfern, in col. 1, lines 33-45, there is only a listing of the sources that match the search data. In claim 6, these documents are stored, and when the query is repeated it will only show documents that are new or documents that have been modified. In col. 10, lines 39-45, there is only a discussion of information received from search engines by the meta-search engine, there is nothing related to the storing of the documents. The sections cited by the Examiner in Redfern do not teach the method of claim 6.

With respect to the remainder of the rejections of claims 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, and 57, the Office Action refers to the comments made in the rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Applicants reiterate the comments hereinabove with respect to the appropriate claims and incorporate them by reference. In view of these comments, the rejection of claims 1-6, 16-20, 46-50 and 52-57 is overcome and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

In support of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103, with respect to claim 7, the Examiner states that though Redfern did not explicitly teach filtering the actual documents when viewed in full order to highlight the query terms and insert quick jump links so the user can quickly jump to the query term of interest, nonetheless, this would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made. Redfern fails to show how once the documents are filtered, the user can enter keywords and click on a link to a document and have the keywords highlighted. This is not obvious to one having

ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made. Claim 7 recites how to filter the documents received from the search engine and be able to jump quickly to each query term of interest, which are highlighted, by the use of jump links.

With respect to claim 8, the Examiner states that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to create and use a database of meta-information regarding query terms such as storing a list of movie titles, recognizing when a user enters a query term containing a movie title and taking a special action. In a normal search it may produce a site or two with the movie, but it would take each word of the title of the movie and conduct a full search, and return a lot of irrelevant information mixed in with the information that the user is looking for. The method of claim 8 would enable one who is looking for a specific movie review site to be able to type in the movie name as a query and recognize it as such and only return information pertaining to the particular movie. The method of claim 8 would recognize the movie name and only return what the user requests. There is no teaching or suggestion of the method of claim 8 in Redfern.

With respect to claim 9, the Examiner states that storing and using information regarding the particular documents requested by a user in response to a query, remembering the most commonly requested document for a given query and presenting this document first in response to the same query in the future are shown in Redfern in col. 1, lines 21-45. In the column and lines cited by the Examiner, there is only a reference to a query being entered that yields a list of information sources that match the search data, or "hits," given by the search engine, usually bounded by a maximum number. It does not mention, teach or suggest storing and using the information returned for a given query as recited in claim 9 so that in the future,

if the same query is entered again, the document most requested before is given first to the user.

With respect to claim 10, the Examiner states that analyzing the number of documents found as a function of the number of third party search engines queried, and computing the estimated size of the document base which the third party search engines index are shown in Redfern. The cited section by the Examiner in Redfern refers to the method used in Redfern for scoring segments extracted from result documents and does not teach, disclose or suggest the method of claim 10.

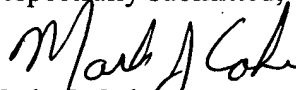
With respect to claim 15, the Examiner states that using a proximity based ranking scheme to re-rank documents according to the number of proximity between query terms is shown in Redfern. Proximity refers to the distance and between the query terms in the result document, and the cited section by the Examiner in Redfern does not refer to proximity based ranking. Thus, Redfern does not teach, disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 15.

Therefore claims 7-15 and 21-29, are not obvious in view of Redfern.

Redfern cannot download documents until all search engines have responded (col. 10, lines 41-42). In new claim 79, the system processes the search engine responses, downloads the full text of the documents, and processes the documents in parallel using the meta search code and a parallel page retrieval daemon (p. 15, lines 18-20 and p. 42, lines 14-19). Calling the web search engine and downloading web pages in parallel allows the meta search engine of this invention to display the first result quicker than using a standard engine. The subject matter of claim 79 is also not rendered obvious by the teachings in Redfern.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in  
this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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